



Milwaukee County

Board Chairman Lee Holloway

Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., 1st Vice-Chairman

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STATEMENT ON LEGISLATURE'S REGIONAL TRANSIT BILL

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Board Chairman Lee Holloway and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., released the following joint statement regarding mass transit in Milwaukee County:

“A failure to enact dedicated funding for transit by State elected officials would result in a one-third permanent reduction in transit service in Milwaukee County. As members of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority, we know the federal government also will reject an application for the Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee commuter rail line while the existing bus systems along the corridor are reducing transit service and increasing fares. Clearly, the Governor and the Legislature need to move quickly to stabilize the Milwaukee County Transit System before the legislative session ends.

“The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) legislation currently being considered by the Assembly and the Senate creates opportunities to increase transit service, lower bus fares, connect more people to jobs, and provide property tax relief. Senate and Assembly legislative leadership must include the stabilization of mass transit at the top of their jobs agenda.

“We are pleased to see the State Assembly taking concrete steps to advance the RTA proposal through the legislative process, including scheduling a public hearing on the bill on March 11th. Today's announcement in the Assembly is encouraging and will help jumpstart the legislative process. Representative Tamara Grigsby is to be commended for working with her colleagues to move the process forward and address some of the concerns with the initial legislation. With the language put forward today, we are assured that every dollar raised in Milwaukee County stays in the County and is used for transit.

“Over a year ago, the voters of Milwaukee County endorsed a sales tax to provide property tax relief for residents by removing transit, parks, culture and emergency medical services from the levy. The failure of the State to heed the people's call is resulting in diminished service levels in Milwaukee County, including the County Executive's recent layoffs of 25 parks maintenance workers. Residents and businesses that use the bus system are depending on the Governor and the Legislature to find the political will to do the right thing before it is too late.”